

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Fig. 7, 8A, 8B and 9 adding the legend “PRIOR ART”, as shown in the accompanying revised drawings for Figs. 7, 8A, 8B and 9, labeled “Replacement Sheet.”

Please amend Fig. 1 to correct the drawing item to which reference character “123” designates, as shown in the accompanying revised drawing for Fig. 1, labeled “Replacement Sheet.”

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 have been allowed. Claim 3 has been objected to. Claims 3-5 have been rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 3-5 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Objection to Drawings:

The drawings have been objected to because Fig. 7, 8A, 8B and 9 should be designated by a legend such as “PRIOR ART”.

The drawings are further objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters “122 and “123” both designate a spatial filter in Fig. 1.

Applicants have amended Fig. 1, 7, 8A, 8B and 9 in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestions, and have provided replacement sheets as instructed in the Office Action. As a result, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

III. Objection to Specification:

In the specification, the title of the invention has been objected to for not being descriptive, and a new title has been required by the Examiner.

Applicants have amended the title of the invention, as suggested by the Examiner, to read “ABERRATION MEASURING METHOD FOR PROJECTION OPTICAL SYSTEM WITH A VARIABLE NUMERICAL APERTURE IN AN EXPOSURE APPARATUS”. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

IV. Objection to Claims:

Claim 3 is objected to because on page 28, line 7 of this claim includes the phrase “exposuring apparatus” that should be changed to “exposure apparatus”.

Applicants have cancelled claim 3 without prejudice. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 3-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2004/0042094 to Matsuyama (hereafter, “Matsuyama”).

Applicants have cancelled claims 3-5 without prejudice. As a result, withdrawal of the rejection to the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application, or, in the alternative, entry of the amendment for purposes of appeal.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5317. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5317. A DUPLICATE OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.



Dated: March 29, 2006 By:

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CONCLUSION

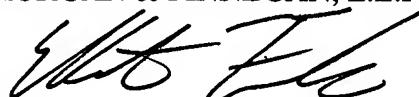
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